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**PINK SHORTS FOR SOCIAL REFORM - THE
LEGACY OF DON DUNSTAN**



Pink Shorts for Social Reform – The Legacy of Don Dunstan

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Abstract:

With an objective of scrutinising the causes and consequences within Don Dunstan's career as a progressive politician, this essay intends to pay homage to his endeavours regarding social reform, whilst investigating the initial cause which led to his controversies – such as the Salisbury affair. Primary sources have allowed logical analysis.

Word Count: 1997

“When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.” George Orwell: Animal Farm.¹

Within the male-dominated, frequently racist, anti-homosexual, and in various aspects, conservative society of mid-1900s South Australia, Donald ‘Don’ Allan Dunstan acted as a powerful voice of change and influence. In his namesake, the professed ‘Dunstan Decade’ of the 1970s was a consequence and outcome of his reforms as leader of the South Australian Labor government.²

Though Don Dunstan’s name and South Australia are inexplicably correlated, Fiji is arguably the land that shaped him into the man, leader, and politician he became.

Dunstan was born in the capital of Fiji, Suva, on 21 September 1926; the second child of expatriate South Australians. His father, Francis Vivian Dunstan, referred to by the appellation ‘Viv,’ had relocated to the country of Fiji in 1913 for employment, and Don Dunstan’s mother, Ida May Dunstan (née Hill), had followed suit accordingly, subsequent to marriage in 1916. Beset with sickness at an early age, having contracted long-lasting staphylococcus infection from a boarding school in Suva, it was agreed the likelihood of a rapid recovery was greater in South Australia, and thereby, Dunstan was sent to reside with Ida’s family in Murray Bridge. He returned to Fiji at age ten in early 1937, following three years in Murray Bridge, yet shortly resumed South Australian life, this time in Adelaide with the intention of furthering his education, as he was enrolled in St Peter’s College for the beginning of 1940.^{3 4}

Dunstan was successful academically, as evident through his admission to study a law degree at the University of Adelaide, and he graduated in 1948. Notably, he made a lasting impression on the institution and was involved in a number of occasions post-graduation, such as speaking at an alumni event in 1995 (**SOURCE 1**). Interestingly, though his father was a member of the Liberal party, Dunstan joined the Australian Labor Party in 1946, where his extensive affiliation with politics began.⁵

In 1953, Dunstan entered the South Australian Parliament, as a successful Labor candidate for the seat of Norwood. As he summarised personally, “I [Don Dunstan] had become one insignificant member of the group which may accomplish social change in South Australia” (**SOURCE 2**).

¹ Orwell, G 2014, *Animal Farm*, The Text Publishing Company, Australia.

² State Library of South Australia 2022, *South Australian History: Dunstan decade in SA politics*, viewed 24 July 2022, <<https://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/c.php?g=410270&p=2795179>>.

³ Hodge, D 2014, *Don Dunstan, Intimacy & Liberty: A Political Biography*, Wakefield Press, Adelaide.

⁴ Woollacott, A 2019, *Don Dunstan: The visionary politician who changed Australia*, Allen&Unwin, Sydney.

⁵ Flinders Ranges Research 2021, *Donald Allan Dunstan, South Australia*, viewed 20 August 2022, <<https://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/dunstan.htm>>.

However, Dunstan proved to be quite the contrary of “insignificant” – in 1956, ensuing his first term in Parliament, Dunstan retained the seat of Norwood, and would proceed to win the seat in the following eight elections, representing the people of Norwood for a total of 26 years. As a consequence of his revolutionary career and lasting legacy, this electorate of Norwood is now named ‘Dunstan,’ in his honour.⁶

Headed by the 34th Premier of South Australia, Frank Walsh, a Labor Government was elected in March 1965, in which Dunstan assumed various ministerial portfolios – Attorney-General, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister of Social Welfare. He, at “38 [years old] ... was not much more than a boy in the hard world of politics”. (SOURCE 3)⁷

Concerning his impact as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the contributions he made towards overcoming internalised racism towards the First Nations in Australia, Don Dunstan’s upbringing in Fiji played a role as a central cause.

Dunstan’s parents “quite clearly regarded Indians and Fijians as socially inferior,” and “conformed to” the “rigid colour bar in Fiji ... society.” Dunstan’s mother, in particular, was “very suspicious of part-European children,” and forbid Dunstan to “play games with Indian children or anything of that kind.”⁸ In an irony, or awakening, Dunstan rejected these parental opinions and adopted liberalism and inclusivity. He grew in a household occupied by Fijian and Indian servants, thus being accustomed to appearances different from his own, and throughout his experience at Suva Boys’ Grammar, in the period between his return from Murray Bridge and before his travel to Adelaide to attend St Peter’s College, he encountered various Fijians, his “best friend” being “about a quarter Fijian”. His parents limited Dunstan’s interactions with these friends, which Dunstan thought “absolutely absurd and hurtful and bad” – as a consequence, began Dunstan’s natural will to campaign for the First Nations Peoples.⁹

In 1965, Don Dunstan, as newly selected Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, attended a short meeting with Dr John Kempster, who, at the time, was active as president of the South Australian Aborigines Advancement League. Remarkably, Kempster had “migrated to Adelaide, South Australia, in 1959”, reportedly “knowing ... only that ‘aborigines’ made boomerangs”, and yet he had come representing an organisation intending to assist “the small, remotely settled, naïve population [First Nations people] to integration with the community” (SOURCE 4). This transformation in mindset may

⁶ Don Dunstan Foundation n.d., Don Dunstan Timeline, Flinders University, University of Adelaide, viewed 18 August 2022, <<https://www.dunstan.org.au/about/don-dunstan/>>.

⁷ Ibid Don Dunstan Foundation n.d.

⁸ Reid, S Don Dunstan 1993, Don Dunstan interviewed by Stuart Reid [sound recording], Digital interview recording, National Library of Australia viewed 22 August 2022, <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-204398243/listen>>.

⁹ Woollacott, A 2019, Don Dunstan: The visionary politician who changed Australia

potentially have been a consequence resulting from Dunstan's progressive lead. At the said encounter, Dunstan and Kempster were photographed deliberating a booklet prepared by the Aboriginal Advancement League (AAL) (**SOURCE 4**).

Possibly inspired by the steps towards equality for Indigenous Australians, such as the "Federal Referendum on Saturday, May 27, 1967" to "eliminate discrimination on the grounds of race from the Commonwealth Constitution", in which "unanimous support" was given to "a Yes Vote" (**SOURCE 5**), a particularly revolutionary piece of legislation that was passed in South Australian Parliament was the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 1966. This was a Bill which Don Dunstan himself introduced in order to confer Aboriginal Peoples' foremost mineral rights for the land held in the Trust, and enforce the ability for Aboriginal communities, that had hitherto taken part in missions or Crown Reserves, to hold freehold land. It was the very first Act in the entirety of Australia to acknowledge Aboriginal rights to land, which catalysed positive consequences under the same subject, such as "full legal recognition" being "given by the Victorian government to the right of ownership by the Aboriginal people resident on present permanently reserved lands" through the Aboriginal Lands Act 1970 (**SOURCE 6**). Even in documents regarding this Victorian Act, it was remarked "Only in South Australia and Victoria do Aborigines own the land set aside for them. Other states fail to conform to justice or international standards" (**SOURCE 7**).¹⁰

Dunstan personally recognised that Aboriginal Australians were "not receiving local government services in S.A. comparable to other members of the community", and South Australian Aboriginal communities were "generally too small and inadequately resourced". In some attempted solutions, he suggested "the development of training schemes" and "full consultation with the S.A. Aboriginal Communities" was "appropriate" prior to "proceed[ing] ... South Australian legislation". (**SOURCE 8**).

Therefore, change was caused by Dunstan's activism and leadership as a Government Minister, challenging centuries of paternalism and disempowerment of Indigenous Australians. Moreover, Dunstan was inclusive of all cultures, evident through his community involvement, such as attending a traditional Malaysian wedding to bless the couple (**SOURCE 9**) or greeting and discussing with the Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yu and his associates in 1965 (**SOURCE 10**). Dunstan's progressive attitude was not limited to racial respect – in fact, it extended to various other human characteristics, such as gender.

¹⁰ Painter, A n.d., 8 December 1966 Aboriginal Lands Trust Act, Adelaide, viewed 21 August 2022, <<http://www.sahistorians.org.au/175/chronology/december/8-december-1966-aboriginal-lands-trust-act.shtml>>.

For instance, with Don Dunstan as Attorney-General, in 1965, the South Australian government nominated Dame Roma Mitchell as a judge of South Australia's Supreme Court – a title that simultaneously caused Mitchell to become the very first female Supreme Court judge in the whole of Australia. This appointment initiated controversy, with debates involving attire, court titles, and, with capital punishment still legal in South Australia at the time – the abolition of which Dunstan was a significant voice – whether it was socially acceptable for a woman to judge a convicted man to the death penalty.^{11 12}

Despite criticism, the Dunstan-influenced South Australian government pushed ahead with reforms, and the consequence was an opened door for increased female leadership in South Australian courts, government, and society.

Don Dunstan, as a white, middle-class man, often the stereotype of a conservative, was a feminist – as he stated himself while speaking of the “enormous rise in reported cases of rape between 1972-73 and 1973-74”: “... one of our society's most serious disorders ... [is] its attitude towards women and the position of women in it” (**SOURCE 11**).

In 1967, Don Dunstan, upon Walsh's retirement, became Premier – however, the next year, though he won 54% of the vote, he was defeated. This caused, fortunately, pressure for a review of the electoral system, and the consequence was a fair electoral system wherein the principle of one vote equalling one value replaced the previous rules, where the votes of city constituents were valued at a mere quarter of those of rural people; rules that Dunstan was indeed sceptical of. In 1970, Don Dunstan returned as Premier, and the illustrious Dunstan Decade began.¹³

The Dunstan Decade was a peak for South Australia's artistic merit, with “Dunstan's diverse activities in the arts field in South Australia” (**SOURCE 3**). South Australia has long since been branded as the Festival State of Australia – Don Dunstan was a substantial cause of this title, and was prompted to act in such a way due to his love for the field of arts. For example, Dunstan assisted in the establishment of S.A. Film Corporation, and signed into law the State Theatre Company of South Australia Act. As a consequence of his artistic contributions, the year following Dunstan's death in

¹¹ Heffernan, E 2022, Dame Roma Mitchell (1913-2000), viewed 17 August 2022, <<https://www.rahs.org.au/dame-roma-mitchell-1913-2000/>>.

¹² Dunstan 2022, viewed 11 August 2022, <<https://adelaidez.com/dunstan>>.

¹³ History Trust of South Australia n.d., Donald Allan Dunstan AC QC, Adelaide, viewed 10 August 2022, <<https://adelaide.history.sa.gov.au/people/donald-allan-dunstan-ac-qc>>.

1999, as he was a Fringe Patron, the traditional Adelaide Fringe Festival was dedicated to him.^{14 15 16}

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1972 holds an unconventionally radical moment for South Australian politics. On 22 November, a cheerful Don Dunstan was photographed – albeit limited, as it is in black-and-white – on the steps of South Australian Parliament House donning flamboyant, hot pink shorts (**SOURCE 12**). This extremely distinctive outfit symbolised Dunstan’s politics that challenged the norm, and delivered his message of individuality. This seemingly minor detail proved to have large impacts – for example, the Marching Dunstans were a gathering of over 100 people at the annual Adelaide Pride March, in 2015, where the specific garment worn by all was determined to be Dunstan’s signature white shirt and pink shorts. Briefly put, the pink shorts have become an icon of change.^{18 19}

Through examining his personal life, the causes of Don Dunstan’s social views become plain to perceive. For instance, as aforementioned, his childhood in Fiji caused his aversion towards colonialism and acknowledgement of minority cultures, particularly with his pioneering legislations in support of Aboriginal Australians, and even his zeal for music and arts. Likewise, Dunstan’s passion for preventing LGBTQ+ discrimination reportedly stemmed from his own sexuality.²⁰

Until 1975 in South Australia, homosexuality – importantly, only man-to-man, as women were observed incapable of the ‘sin’ – was illegal and comprehended as a crime associated with the penal system. However, Don Dunstan is generally acknowledged to have been a bisexual man, as exemplified by his partner, Steven Cheng, who nursed Dunstan up to his passing, subsequent to

¹⁴ The University of Adelaide n.d., 1960s: Creation of the Festival State, viewed 22 August 2022, <<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/lumen/issues/71342/news71366.html>>.

¹⁵ Adelaide Fringe n.d., Fringe History, viewed 20 August 2022, <<https://adelaidefringe.com.au/history>>.

¹⁶ Reid, S Don Dunstan 1993, Don Dunstan interviewed by Justin Macdonnell [sound recording], Digital interview recording, National Library of Australia viewed 22 August 2022, <<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-204398243/listen>>.

¹⁷ State Theatre Company South Australia n.d., Celebrating 50 Years, viewed 19 August 2022, <<https://statetheatrecompany.com.au/celebrating-50-years/>>.

¹⁸ Baird, B & Prosser, R 2017, The Marching Dunstans: performing memory, queering memory, SAGE Journals, viewed 24 August 2022, <<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1329878X17727566>>.

¹⁹ Seys, M 2020, Tailoring Don Dunstan, viewed 25 August 2022, <https://centrefordemocracy.sa.gov.au/2020/02/tailoring-don-dunstan/#_edn4>.

²⁰ Woollacott, A 2019, Don Dunstan: The visionary politician who changed Australia

Dunstan's separation from his first wife and death of his second wife. In 1975, mid-Dunstan Decade, homosexuality was decriminalised as a consequence of Dunstan's activism.^{21 22}

Don Dunstan, throughout the majority of his political career, maintained a steady stream of public support, hence the numerous election wins attributable to his name. A key event that was, however, marked with a degree of contest, along with his personal lifestyle such as rumoured extramarital same-gender relationships, was the Salisbury Affair.

In 1978, well-admired S.A. police commissioner Harold Salisbury was dismissed for having misled the Dunstan Government through supplying inaccurate information both to them and the public. A royal commission led by Justice Roma Mitchell was carried out, and Mitchell concluded firmly Salisbury was responsible for the cause, and Dunstan's decision, as a consequence, to terminate him from his job, was vindicated. Nevertheless, many felt Salisbury's sacking was a political mistake, and that "a serious injustice has [had] been done to the former Police Commissioner" (SOURCE 13), increasing pressure on Dunstan – as a consequence of the stress, Dunstan's poor health conquered, and caused him to retire and "cut short his political career" (SOURCE 14).^{23 24}

All in all, a variety of principal causes led to Don Dunstan challenging the 'status quo' in South Australia's arts industry, laws, and social issues. The consequences of his accomplishments were, and continue to be, profound, and through his undeniably significant legacy, Dunstan's staunch commitment to justice is evident in the variety of reforms he achieved in the 'Dunstan era'.

²¹ Debelle, P 2014, First biography since Don Dunstan's death reveals his double life drove him to resign, viewed 19 August 2022, <<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/first-biography-since-don-dunstans-death-reveals-his-double-life-drove-him-to-resign/news-story/f4c7e41589fe146f381d0ae0a0e9c034>>.

²² Teeseling, I 2021, Don Dunstan: The man who decriminalised homosexuality, viewed 17 August 2022, <<https://thebigsmoke.com.au/2021/03/06/don-dunstan-the-man-who-decriminalised-homosexuality/>>.

²³ Summers, J 2021, Salisbury, Harold Hubert (1915–1991), viewed 23 August 2022, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/salisbury-harold-hubert-14851#:~:text=On%2017%20January%201978%20Dunstan,18%20January%201978%2C%201.>)>.

²⁴ Conservative angst at police commissioner Harold Salisbury being dismissed in 1978 after the White Report n.d., AdelaideAZ, viewed 19 August 2022, <<https://adelaideaz.com/articles/conservative-angst-over-police-commissioner-harold-salisbury-being-dismissed-in-1978-after-the-white-report>>.

Appendix: Sources

SOURCE 1: Don Dunstan in 1995, speaking at an event organised by the Alumni Association of the University of Adelaide²⁵



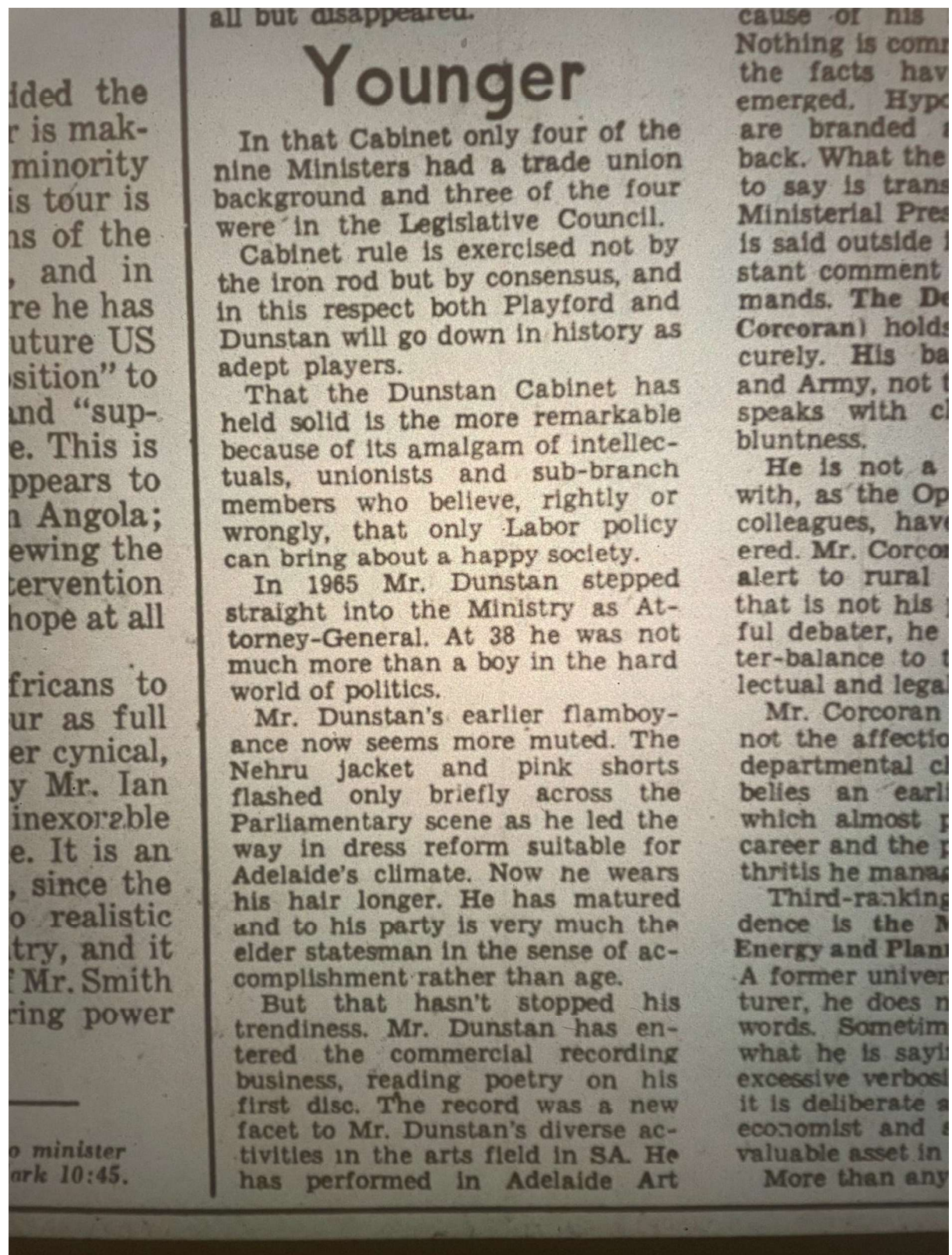
SOURCE 2: A written account by Don Dunstan regarding his first, successful election for the seat of Norwood²⁶

I had become one insignificant member of the group which might accomplish social change in South Australia. But the task remained daunting. The Labor Party itself had to be made a more effective instrument for change. Formally, it was set about with programs and dogmas which needed re-examination and revision. Often, the people who mouthed some of the accepted shibboleths would have been appalled to see anything practical done about them: they had become hallowed with time, and many people in the Party regarded them as sacrosanct – a kind of security blanket.

²⁵ Don Dunstan at a University of Adelaide Alumni Event 1995, Photograph, University of Adelaide, viewed 22 August 2022, <<https://archives.adelaide.edu.au/#details=ecatalogue.32343>>.

²⁶ Don Dunstan at a University of Adelaide Alumni Event 1995, Photograph, University of Adelaide, viewed 22 August 2022, <<https://archives.adelaide.edu.au/#details=ecatalogue.32343>>.

SOURCE 3: A section from pg. 5 of the 29 April 1976 version of the newspaper *The Advertiser* addressing Don Dunstan's typical behaviours as a mature politician²⁷



²⁷ The Advertiser 1976, Don Dunstan - Younger, Newspaper clipping, Adelaide.

SOURCE 3: (continued)

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horse.

Mr. Dunstan is more self-as-
sured, relaxed and not given to the
emotional outbursts of previous
years. In Parliament he often
pauses and takes his time as if to
invite interjection and makes
mincemeat of those who dare. He
is the master of the House, if not
the Parliament, despite his lack of
a majority in both Houses.

Out of session his day is filled
with a seemingly endless proces-
sion of departmental heads who
see him on administrative matters.
The Premier's Department has
taken over many key functions
that used to be elsewhere.

Time is the factor and to that
extent the Premier is less accessi-
ble. If Mr. Dunstan has tied him-
self into a time schedule, it is be-
cause of his methodical nature.
Nothing is commented upon unless
the facts have sufficiently
emerged. Hypothetical questions
are branded as such and sent
back. What the Government wants
to say is transmitted through its
Ministerial Press secretaries. What
is said outside is monitored for in-
stant comment if the occasion de-
mands. The Deputy Premier (Mr.
Corcoran) holds the job down se-
curely. His background is farm
and Army, not trade union, and he
speaks with characteristic Army
bluntness.

He is not a man to be trifled
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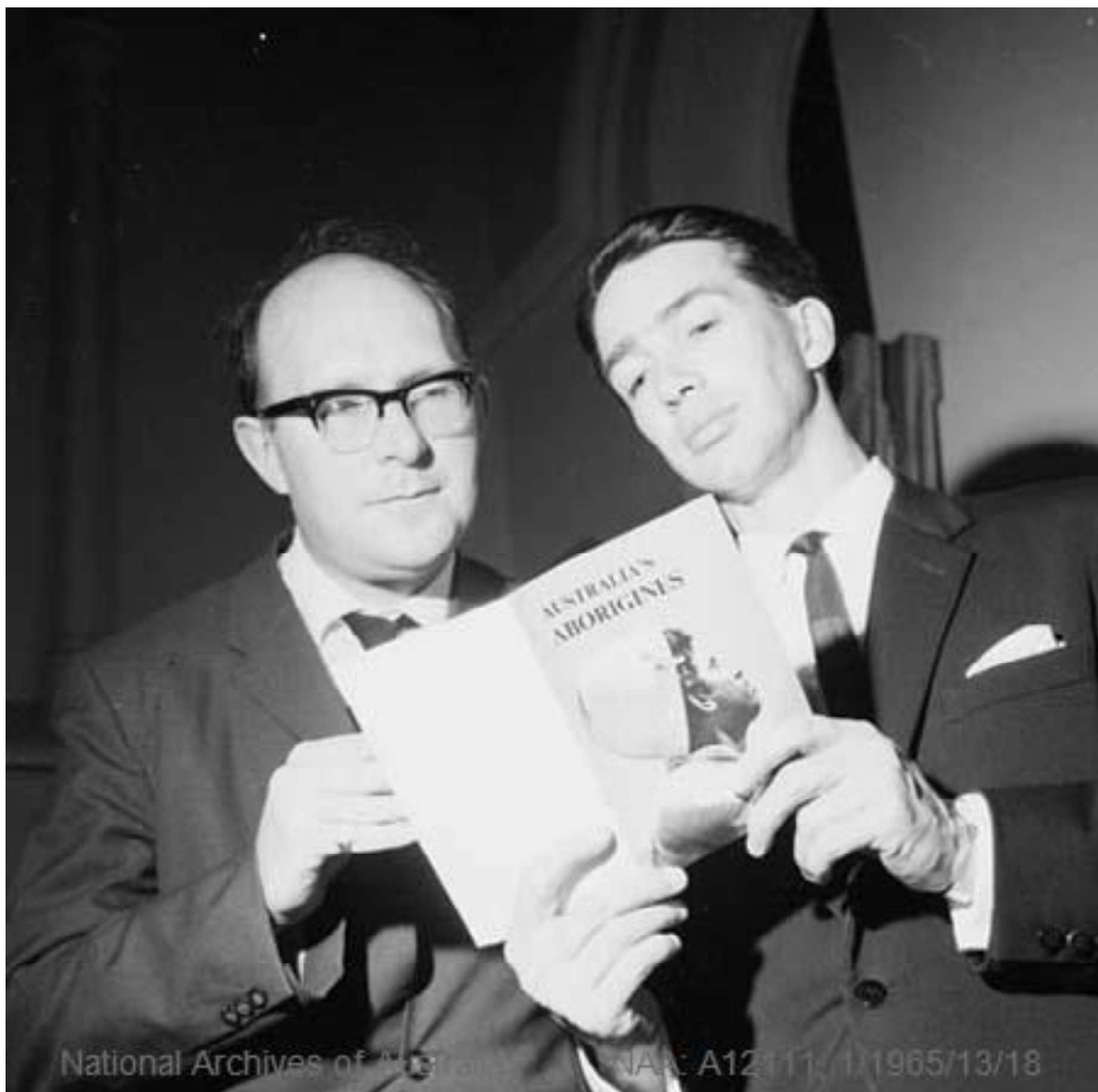
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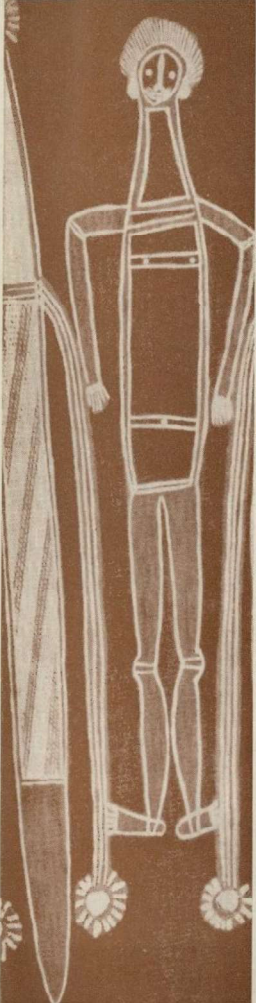
SOURCE 4: Don Dunstan (right) and Dr John Kempster (left) discussing a booklet prepared by the Aborigines Advancement League²⁸

TITLE: Immigration - Migrants in the community - Aborigines Advancement League South Australia - British migrant president - Cambridge graduate, Dr John Kempster, 33, migrated to Adelaide, SA, in 1959, knowing, he says, only that aborigines made boomerangs. Now he is the president of the South Australian Aborigines Advancement League - a group whose aim is to help the small, remotely - settled naïve population to integration with the community. Dr Kempster, now a physics lecturer at Adelaide University, is returning to Cambridge in January for a year's study leave. Dr Kempster (left) discusses a booklet prepared by the Aborigines Advancement League, with South Australia's Aboriginal Affairs Minister and Attorney-General, Mr Don Dunstan, MLA CATEGORY: photograph FORMAT: b&w negative TYPE: cellulose acetate STATUS: preservation material



²⁸ Don Dunstan and Dr John Kempster 1965, Photograph, National Archives of Australia, viewed 29 July 2022, <<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7478300>>.

SOURCE 5: A pamphlet relating to Question 2 in the 1967 Federal Referendum, that involved the amendment of Sections 51 and 127 of the Australian Constitution²⁹



● WHY A REFERENDUM?
Section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution gives the Federal Government power to make laws with respect to many features of life in Australia.
But Clause 26 prohibits the Commonwealth making laws for the benefit of the Aboriginal People.
To give the power to make laws an affirmative vote in four States is essential.

● WHY A REFERENDUM ON ABORIGINE RIGHTS?
Section 127 of the Commonwealth Constitution excludes Aborigines even from being counted in the Commonwealth Census.
"127. In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State, or other part of the Commonwealth, Aboriginal natives shall not be counted."
Section 51, Clause XXVI of the Commonwealth Constitution gives the Federal Government power to make laws with respect to:
"The people of any race, other than the Aboriginal race, in any State, for whom it is necessary to make special laws."

● The Government and the Opposition, all Political Parties, Unions and Associations, unanimously support a YES VOTE in the Section on Aborigine Rights on Saturday, May 27th, 1967.

● Vote to eliminate discrimination on grounds of race from the Commonwealth Constitution.

Printed by C. H. Miller, 40 Jersey Street, Murrickville

The Rights of the Australian Aborigines AND YOU

"All human beings are born free and equal . . . in dignity and human rights . . . and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

ARTICLE 1. United Nations Declaration on Human Rights

WHAT CAN AUSTRALIANS OF EUROPEAN DESCENT DO TO MAKE THIS A REALITY FOR THEIR FELLOW-AUSTRALIANS OF ABORIGINE DESCENT ?

Vote YES

in the Federal Referendum on
Saturday, May 27, 1967

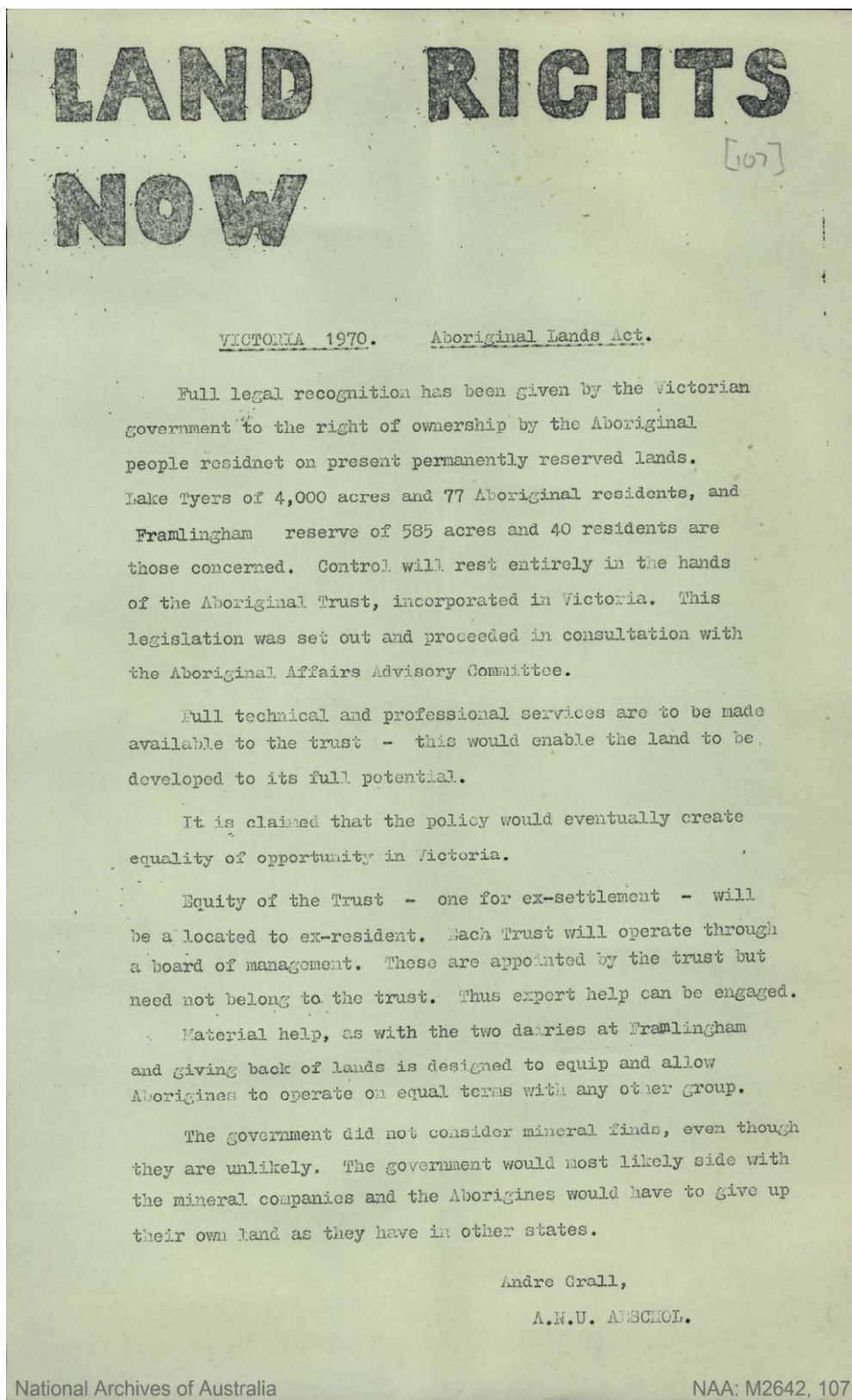
Appeal by . . .
THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SALARIED AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

NAA: M2642, 107

National Archives of Australia

²⁹ 1967, Relating to Question 2 in the 1967 Federal Referendum, Pamphlet, National Archives of Australia.

SOURCE 6: A pamphlet titled 'Land Rights NOW' regarding the Victoria 1970 Aboriginal Lands Act³⁰



³⁰ Grall, A 1970, Land Rights Now, Document, National Archives of Australia, Victoria.

SOURCE 7: A document written by Caroline Le Couteur concerning the Victoria 1970 Aboriginal Lands Act³¹

Since 1788 the Aborigines have had no land rights (with the recent Victorian and South Australian exceptions). All land has been regarded as Crown; only the Crown could make treaties with the natives for land, others who did so were regarded as trespassers (i.e. Batman). The Crown did not exercise the right to make treaties. European civilisation was a sufficient compensation for a continent.

Only in South Australia and Victoria do Aborigines own the land set aside for them. Other states fail to conform to justice or international standards (for example, the Indian Claims Commission Act in the U.S.). This hangover from paternalism has not prevented mining concerns making large inroads on reserves (e.g. Weipa, Gove Peninsula).

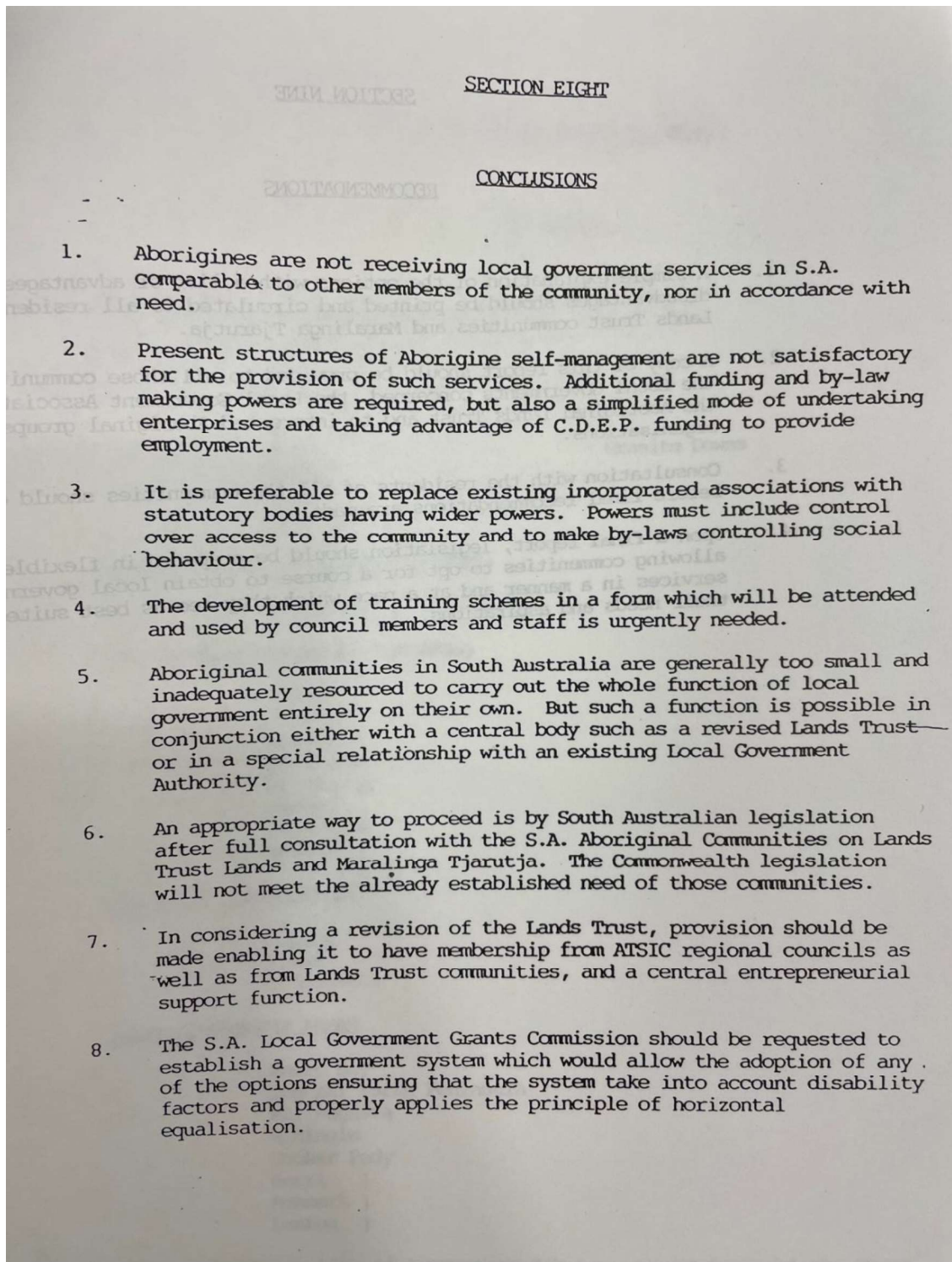
To the Aborigines, land is of the highest religious significance, their link with the proud past and a symbol of grouphood. Each tribe has special bonds to an area which they collectively own in trust through the past and into the future. This has not been recognised by the Europeans. Other groups could, with agreement, use the land. Europeans were regarded as temporary land-users whose presence did not affect the ownership of the land. Land will help Aborigines achieve economic self-sufficiency and because of its significance as a link with the past and symbol of grouphood, it is necessary for them to develop as a people whose culture can benefit all Australians.

ABSCMOL therefore calls on the Federal Government to grant Aborigines title to all lands reserved for them, remove other occupiers (with compensation) from land owned by tribes according to their law, except where leases are granted by the Aborigines, and to consult Aborigines before forcing development on their land and to pay them royalties from developments there.

Caroline Le Couteur.

³¹ Couteur, C 1970, Land Rights Now, Document, National Archives of Australia, Victoria.

SOURCE 8: A report written by Don Dunstan regarding Aboriginal Community Government, for the general exhibits from Northern Territory Local Government and conference session at Alice Springs³²



³² D, Dunstan 1989, Aboriginal Community Government, Report, National Archives of Australia, Alice Springs.

SOURCE 9: Don Dunstan (right) blesses a Malaysian couple at their wedding³³



³³ Don Dunstan blesses a Malaysian wedding 1971, Photograph, National Archives of Australia, viewed 29 July 2022, <<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=11842690>>.

SOURCE 10: The Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew (second from the left) are greeted at the Hotel Australia, North Adelaide, by Don Dunstan (left), prior to dinner³⁴



³⁴ Lee Kuan Yew being greeted by SA Attorney-General Don Dunstan 1965, Photograph, National Archives of Australia, viewed 29 July 2022, <<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8914569>>.

SOURCE 11: A section from pg. 5 of the 26 April 1976 version of the newspaper *The Advertiser* containing Don Dunstan's comments concerning problematic treatment of females³⁵



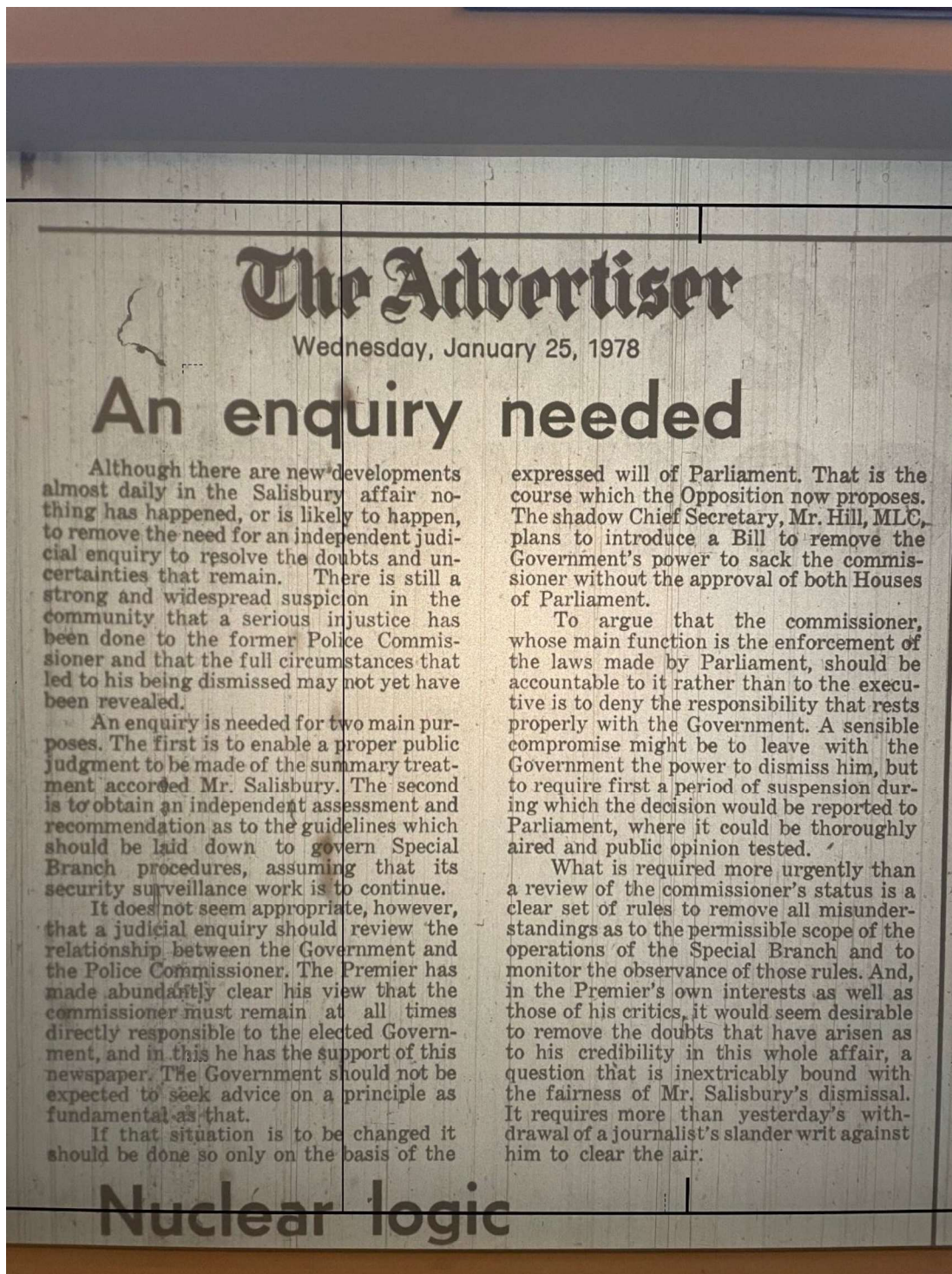
³⁵ The Advertiser 1976, Rape 'not related to porn', Newspaper clipping, Adelaide.

SOURCE 12: The photograph of Dun Dunstan taken outside the South Australia Parliament House, with him wearing his iconic pink shorts³⁶



³⁶ Don Dunstan and his Pink Shorts 1972, Photograph, A Story to Tell, viewed 24 August 2022, <<https://www.astorytotell.com.au/a-story-to-tell/shorts-sake>>.

SOURCE 13: A section from pg. 5 of the 25 January 1978 version of the newspaper *The Advertiser* containing comments concerning the Salisbury Affair³⁷



³⁷ The Advertiser 1978, An enquiry needed, Newspaper clipping, Adelaide.

SOURCE 14: A section from pg. 9 of the 16 February 1979 version of the newspaper *The Advertiser* containing an article regarding Don Dunstan's retirement³⁸

Poor health forces shock decision

By Political Reporter GREG KELTON

The Dunstan era came to a close at 11 a.m. yesterday.

Ill-health forced SA's 52-year-old Premier, the second longest-serving Premier in the State's history, to cut short his political career.

Two letters of resignation from Mr. Dunstan — one to the Governor, Mr. Seaman, and the other to the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr. Langley — ushered in a new era in SA politics.

Mr. Dunstan, who has been Premier for a total of 10 years and the MP for Norwood since 1953, had tears in his eyes as he told a crowded Press conference at the Calvary Hospital that he had resigned.

Women members of the Premier's staff wept as they watched the Press conference telecast live by one TV station.

Half-an-hour later, at 12.30 p.m., the Deputy Premier, Mr. Corcoran, was sworn in as Premier at a special Executive Council meeting at Government House, prompting intense speculation in political circles about the future of the ALP, without Mr. Dunstan, in SA.

At the Trades Hall, some senior union leaders were saying the ALP would lose the next election without Mr. Dunstan, while senior Liberal Party sources said their hopes of winning the next election had soared because of the announcement.

Mr. Dunstan's resignation is without precedent in SA political history. No other SA Premier has resigned in mid-term in such a fashion.

Senior public servants and officers of the Crown Law Department worked until 1 a.m. yesterday checking legal precedents and drawing up the papers of commission necessary for Mr. Corcoran's transition to the most powerful position in SA.

Late yesterday afternoon, Mr. Langley issued the writ for a by-election for Mr. Dunstan's seat of Norwood.

Nominations for the by-election will close on March 1 at noon and the by-election will be held on March 10.

About 40 journalists and members of the Premier's staff attended Mr. Dunstan's Press conference which was held in the pre-natal lecture room at the Calvary Hospital where the Premier had been receiving treatment since last Thursday.

Mr. Dunstan's Press secretary, Mr. M. Rahin, entered the room first and told journalists that Mr. Dunstan would be announcing his resignation in the form of a statement. No questions would be allowed.

On other pages

PAGE 4 — Corcoran: a no-nonsense approach.
— How I saw Don Dunstan, by Sir Mark Oliphant.

PAGE 5 — A true political giant.
— Editorial.
— Atchison cartoon.

PAGE 8 — Leaders' comments and reaction.

PAGE 9 — What Mr. Dunstan said.
— Career pictures.

'Better than Whitlam'

SYDNEY — SA Labor MHR Mr. Clyde Cameron said last night he offered to resign his seat

³⁸ Kelton, G. *The Advertiser* 1978, Poor health forces shock decision, Newspaper clipping, Adelaide.

Bibliography (excluding footnotes)

Cover Image

The Premier of South Australia, Mr Don A Dunstan 1963, Photograph, National Archives of Australia, viewed 18 July 2022,
<<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=11874709>>.

Primary Sources

Archival Material

D, Dunstan 1989, Aboriginal Community Government, Report, National Archives of Australia, Alice Springs. **(SOURCE 8)**

Annotation: This primary source was highly informative, as it was a report written by Don Dunstan himself. Therefore, it provided a reliable source of his political work and views, given it summarised his proposals to advance the welfare of Aboriginal Australians through his own words, and the particular page referenced – the concluding page – contains these proposals in a very brief paragraph, numbered clearly, hence being both concise and useful.

Don Dunstan and Dr John Kempster 1965, Photograph, National Archives of Australia, viewed 29 July 2022,
<<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7478300>>.

(SOURCE 3)

Annotation: This photograph was especially effective in revealing Dunstan's work towards equality for Aboriginal Australians, as it was accompanied with a short description on the National Archives of Australia RecordSearch website. This said caption provided information regarding Dr John Kempster, who was President of the South Australian Aboriginal Advancement League, and his previous lack of knowledge of the topic prior to migration to Australia – it suggested how the impact of Dunstan's progressive lead in South Australia influenced other states and territories. Furthermore, the photograph, taken of Dunstan and Kempster in a meeting, displays Dunstan's apparent skills of collaboration and communication as a politician.

Mr Edward Gough Whitlam with SA Premier Don Dunstan at the Lodge 1973, Photograph, National Archives of Australia, viewed 27 July 2022,
<<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=11616969>>.

National Archives of Australia 1969, Personal Papers of Prime Minister Gorton: Correspondence with Don Dunstan, viewed 19 August 2022,
<<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4029590>>.

National Archives of Australia 1967, Personal Papers of Prime Minister Holt: Correspondence with Don Dunstan, viewed 19 August 2022,
<<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4681480>>.

Secondary Sources

Books

Dunstan, D 1989, Felicia, the political memoirs of Don Dunstan, Macmillan, South Melbourne.

Hodge, D 2014, Don Dunstan, Intimacy & Liberty: A Political Biography, Wakefield Press, Adelaide.

Woollacott, A 2019, Don Dunstan: The visionary politician who changed Australia.

Annotation: This secondary source, in the form of a non-fiction biography written by Australia National University historical researcher Professor Angela Woollacott, proved particularly useful as it provided a reasonably accurate, constructive background overview and acted as a foundation for my essay. It summarised the entirety of Don Dunstan's life, revealing details such as Dunstan's Fijian childhood and the lasting impact it had on his personal values. It also referenced primary sources and archival materials; some of which I could verify and cross-reference by means of the Internet.

Websites

Adelaide Film Festival n.d., The Don Dunstan Award, viewed 16 August 2022, <<https://adelaidefilmfestival.org/industry/awards/the-don-dunstan-award/>>.

Centre of Democracy n.d., Dazzling Don Dunstan, viewed 18 August 2022, <<https://centrefdemocracy.sa.gov.au/collection/dazzling-don-dunstan/>>.

MILESAGO n.d., Don Dunstan, viewed 18 August 2022, <<http://www.milesago.com/people/dunstan-don.htm>>.